

ARA:R Hurwitch:mph

(Drafting Office and Officer)

~~CONFIDENTIAL/EXCERPTS~~

7218226

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Approved in S by Mr. Bremer:
11/17/72

~~EXCERPTS~~

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MADE IN S/S-I.

Date 11-17-72

Initial RL

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: November 16, 1972

SUBJECT: Hijacking

PARTICIPANTS: The Secretary
Amb. Felix Schnyder, Embassy of Switzerland
Mr. Olivier Exchaquet, Minister, Embassy of Switzerland
Mr. Robert A. Hurwitch, Deputy Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Inter-American Affairs

COPIES TO: J - Ambassador Johnson
L - Mr. Stevenson
E/TT - Mr. Rein
ARA - Mr. Meyer
S/PRS - Mr. McCloskey
S
U
White House
EB

The Secretary asked Ambassador Schnyder to forward the attached message to Swiss Ambassador Masnata at Havana as soon as possible. The Secretary explicitly separated the question of a possible bilateral agreement on hijacking from any change in U.S. policy toward Cuba. He stated that U.S. policy toward Cuba remains unchanged. The Secretary also said that the U.S. agreed with Prime Minister Castro's view that the negotiations should be conducted through the Swiss. He said that we were not considering dealing directly with Cuba on this matter but were wondering whether some other mechanism through the Swiss would not accelerate the process of reaching an agreement on the subject.

FORM DS-1254
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PA/HO, Department of State
E.O. 12958, as amended
June 22, 2004

~~EXDISE FILES~~

7218226

November 16, 1972

MESSAGE FROM STATE DEPARTMENT TO AMB. MASNATA

The Department of State requests that you seek the earliest possible appointment with Foreign Minister Roa to deliver the following message orally:

The United States Government has welcomed the Government of Cuba's desire to reach an agreement with United States on hijacking, as indicated in its Note of October 30, 1972, by Prime Minister Castro's remarks on this subject to Swiss Ambassador Masnata on November 11, 1972, and by the Government of Cuba's statement of November 14, 1972. The Government of the U.S. agrees that this important matter should be urgently addressed by both governments and wishes to inform the Government of Cuba that it is prepared to negotiate an arrangement regarding hijacking and other serious crimes which may be committed in the future.

Accordingly, the Government of the U.S. is willing to discuss such a bilateral agreement promptly. It is prepared to consider favorably any arrangements and location for such talks that would expedite agreement and awaits the Government of Cuba's views.

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By WDD

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